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### **REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL July 13, 2023**

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on June 22, 2023, at the American Legion Building in Richmond. The Veteran Services Foundation held a meeting in the same location following the BVS meeting, providing an opportunity for members from each Board to meet and learn from one another as we work to support Virginia's veterans and their families.

Commissioner Gade provided an update on DVS operations and, in particular, the strategic planning effort mandated by HB 1759 from the 2023 General Assembly Session. This legislation directed the Commissioner to convene a workgroup to study and develop recommendations for implementing a statewide strategic plan to guide legislation to make Virginia the best state for veterans. The BVS and the JLC are invited to each of the working group meetings as participants in this effort.

We also received Point of Contact (POC) reports during our meeting. Specifically, we received POC reports on the Communications, Behavioral Health and Rehabilitation, and Benefit service lines within the DVS. The three POC reports have been made available to the Strategic Plan Working Group and are posted on the BVS webpage. Other service line POC reports will be reported during the September and December BVS meeting.

The BVS bylaws have been reviewed by Joyce Henderson of the BVS and recommended revisions will be provided to the Board for a planned vote during the September meeting.

The next BVS meeting is scheduled for September 21. We look forward to receiving a report in September on the JLC's 2024 proposed legislative initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dick  
Chairman